

**Section I (Pending Claims)**

The following claims 1-17 are pending in the application. No amendments of the claims are being made herein.

The pending claims are as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing nanoparticles, having a size of less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , for the administration of active ingredients, comprising the steps of: a) dissolving a biodegradable polymer together with a polyoxyethylene-derived block copolymer in a nonpolar organic solvent, the weight ratio of the biodegradable polymer to the polyoxyethylene-derived polymer being between 1:0.1 and 1:3; b) adding, with stirring, the solution obtained to a polar phase, wherein the biodegradable polymer has low solubility, precipitating the polymer and forming the nanoparticles; c) eliminating the organic solvent; and d) isolating the particles, wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in the organic solvent used in a) before or after step a), or is dissolved in a small volume of the aqueous phase, which is then dispersed in the organic solvent used in a), before or after step a).
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising lyophilizing the nanoparticles obtained.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a polyester.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a polyanhydride.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the polyester is selected from among polycaprolactone, polylactic acid, polylactic co-glycolic acid and their mixtures.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the block copolymer comprises a poloxamer.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the poloxamer has a molecular weight comprised between 1,000 and 25,000 Daltons.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the block copolymer is a poloxamine.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the poloxamine has a molecular weight comprised between 1,000 and 25,000 Daltons.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is selected from molecules with therapeutic properties, vaccines and cosmetic ingredients.
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the biodegradable polymer to the polyoxyethylene-derived polymer is between 1:1 and 1:3.
12. (Original) Nanoparticles for the administration of pharmaceutically- or cosmetically-active ingredients, having a size of less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , as produced by the method of claim 1.
13. (Original) Lyophilized nanoparticles for the administration of pharmaceutically- or cosmetically-active ingredients, having a size of less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , as produced by the method of claim 2.
14. (Original) A composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 12.
15. (Original) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 12.
16. (Original) A composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 13.
17. (Original) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 13.